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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Laura Raus

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EXAMINER

SIGLER, JAY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,721	Applicant(s) RAUS, LAURA	
	Examiner JAY R. SIGLER	Art Unit 3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,24 and 26-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,24 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Pneumatic Instrument for Tissue Removal.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "osteotom" should be spelled --osteotome--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 24, 27-38, 40-45, 47 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bent (US 3,752,161). Bent teaches:

- a. Concerning claim 1, a surgical device apt to the removal of bone, cartilaginous and the like tissues during surgery (see Abstract), comprising: a pair of side-by-side blades (20 and 22), slidably coupled so that respective distal ends thereof be closable the one against the other for the removal of a tissue fragment; propelling means 12, connected or connectible to a blade of said pair

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and apt to determine the sliding thereof with respect to the other of said blades;

and operation means 16 for the operation of said propelling means by a user.

b. Concerning claim 24, a plurality of osteotomy blades removably connectible to said propelling means (see col. 2, l. 60-65).

c. Concerning claims 27-38, 40-45, 47 and 49, the blades can rotate (see col. 4, l. 65 - col. 5, l. 2); a trigger 16; propelling means are of a pneumatic type (col. 2, l. 40-46) with piston 104 and motion transmission member 100; supply valve 184; air intake (70 and 74; means for adjust the closing force and, therefore, the sliding speed of the blades that comprise flow adjusting means (conical section of 184) that depend on the user's speed of handling the operation means (col. 9, l. 42-56); and means capable of preventing bone entrapment 34.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 26 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bent (US 3,752,161) in view of Vilsmeier (US 6,351,659). Bent teaches the claimed invention but not specifically having a neuro-navigation system and means for cooperation with said system. Vilsmeier teaches a neuro-navigation system (see figure

1) and means for cooperation with said system (21 or 22) attached to an instrument 20 in order to supply a link between the surgeon and diagnostic data (see col. 1, l. 25-30).

It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a neuron-navigation system and means for cooperation with said system in the invention of Bent, in view of Vilsmeier, in order to supply a link between the surgeon and diagnostic data.

7. Claims 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bent (US 3,752,161) in view of Cristiano (US 2,625,682). Bent teaches the claimed invention but not specifically a motion transmission member that is a lever. Cristiano teaches a motion transmission member that is a lever 16 attached to a piston 128 and pivotally mounted to a chassis of a device in order to transfer movement from the piston to another element (col. 4, l. 46-53). It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the motion transmission member of Cristiano, i.e. a lever, for the motion transmission member in the invention of Bent because the substitution of one motion transmission member for another would have yielded predictable results, namely to transfer movement from the piston to another element.

8. Claims 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bent (US 3,752,161) in view of De Satnick et al. (US 4,848,338). Bent teaches the claimed invention but not specifically means for inhibiting operation of said propelling means. De Satnick et al. teaches surgical instrument with means 46 for inhibiting operation of propelling means in order allow the user the option of keeping blade members

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(embodied by 15 and 19) closed (col. 6, l. 51-63). It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include means for inhibiting operation of said propelling means in the invention of Bent, in view of De Satnick et al., in order allow the user the option of keeping blade members closed.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAY R. SIGLER whose telephone number is (571)270-3647. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 4 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. R. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Eduardo C. Robert/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733